Course Summary BIOR25 ”Molecular Ecology and Evolution” Spring 2019

Head Teachers: Staffan Bensch, Helena Westerdahl
Other teachers: Aivars Cirulis, Charlie Cornwallis, Anna Drews, Vincenzo Ellis, Bengt Hansson, Johan Hollander, Mikael Hedrén, Tomas Johansson, Jane Jönsson, Max Lundberg, Julian Melgar, Samantha Mellinger, Emily O'Connor, Lars Råberg, Hanna Sigeman, Niklas Wahlberg,

Evaluation

I. Course evaluation summary
Number of replies: 15
Over all the students were pleased about the course (grade 4.5) and we got a lot of positive feedback. Like previous years the students were very satisfied with the excursion and the lab-projects that are based on their own data collected at this excursion day. The mixture of lectures and dry-labs got the grade 4.4 and the research projects in the end of the course got an even higher grade (4.9). A major point of critique was on live@lund due to the breakdown of the folder-structure towards the end of the course, where after the files were difficult to find.

II. Teachers comments
The teachers were very pleased about the course.

III. Evaluation of changes made since the last course
We are constantly revising the course to make it closer to the research field in Genomic Ecology and to include the latest molecular genetic methods following the developments of ‘high throughput sequencing’. As for last year, we are using the program Geneious when we analyzed the DNA sequences. This program is costly but we managed to get 15 licenses for 10k SEK that were available from January to March. We continue to have license-free programs in parallel so that the students can do DNA-analyses at home on their own computers.

IV. Changes for the coming course
Based on the feedback from the students, we will expand both the literature project and the research project by one day each. This will be done by reducing the number of days for self-studies and having the written exam one day earlier. For a better overview of the literature seminars, we will hand out a document at the start of the course, listing the dates for the seminars and specifying which of the book chapters and papers to read.

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